Achieving rice production target

†2583. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seriously contemplating over the reasons for not achieving the targeted rice production;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard so that the production target can be achieved in the forthcoming years; and

(c) whether any special proposal or special advice in this regard has been given by Government to the major rice producing States in the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The rice production target for the year 2005-06 was fixed at 87.80 million tonnes which included 75.45 million tonnes of kharif rice and 12.35 million tonnes of rabi rice. Against the kharif target, the 1st advance estimates for the 2005-06 put the estimated kharif rice production at 73.83 million tonnes which is 1.62 million short of the target. The reason for not achieving the target is mainly erratic behaviour of monsoon resulting in improper spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall.

(b) and (c) In order to reduce dependence on monsoon and to ensure adequate availability of water for production of agricultural crops, more areas are being brought under irrigation. As per the latest reports available, more than 40% of area under foodgrains and commercial crops are under irrigation. The Union Budget 2005-06 has provided Rs. 400 crore for promoting micro irrigation. The Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme was reviewed and an amount of Rs. 4,800 crore has been provided for the current year to complete the last mile projects without further delay.

Further, the programme aimed at boosting production and productivity of rice include Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice). From October, 2000, this scheme has been subsumed under Macro Management Programme with a view to provide flexibility to the States according to the regionally differentiated needs of the states to boost agriculture sector. For enhancing yields, improved crop production technologies are being popularized. Under this

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

scheme assistance is provided for various inputs and training of farmers/ extension workers as well as supply of critical inputs like seeds, sprayers and water saving devices like sprinklers and drip systems etc.

Schemes for development of agriculture sector

2584. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally sponsored schemes being implemented together with such fresh schemes proposed for agricultural development in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(b) the details of the achievements made in this regard during the above said period, State-wise; and

(c) the amount of funds utilized under those schemes, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSSs) in operation in various States during the last three years are (i) Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA); (ii) Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm & Maize (ISOPOM); (iii) Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC); (iv) Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture for North Eastern Region including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttaranchal; (v) Agricultural Census; and (vi) Improvement of Agricultural Statistics (IAS). Of these, while the Scheme titled "Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture for North Eastern Region, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttaranchal" is restricted to the States concerned only, the remaining Schemes are in operation in Tamil Nadu also. However, the schemes relating to "Agricultural Census" and "Improvement of Agricultural Statistics (IAS)" basically involve collection and compilation of agricultural data.

In addition, two new Centrally Sponsored Schemes (i) National Horticulture Mission (NHM); and (ii) Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms have been launched during the current year. These schemes cover the State of Tamil Nadu also.

(b) and (c) The expenditure incurred under the production oriented